

18. (New) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 4.

19. (New) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 4.

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are active in the present application. Claims 1-11 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and for clarity. Claims 12-19 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. No new matter is believed to have been added.

An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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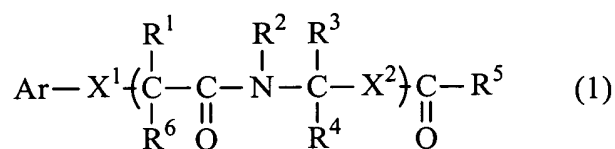
IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph at page 35, lines 8-21 and replace with the following paragraph.

Immediately before the irradiation with ultraviolet rays, the brown guinea pigs were shaven on the back in a similar manner to the above, every time, and the part for evaluation was washed with water to remove the compound to be tested, and then an excess water was removed with a paper towel. The brown guinea pigs were individually fixed by means of a fixing instrument and irradiated with UVB with the eyes being protected with an aluminum foil (Apparatus for irradiation with ultraviolet rays "Dermaray [Dermalay]M-DMR-80 type" (Clinical Supply)). The irradiation was carried out under the conditions of 0.5 mW x 5 minutes and the intensity of ultraviolet rays was controlled by measuring by means of a ultraviolet rays meter "UVR-305/365 D (II) " (Clinical Supply).

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A di-[Di-] or tripeptide [derivatives] derivative having a naphthyl group and represented by the following [general] Formula (1) or a salt [salts] thereof[.]



[()wherein

Ar represents a naphthyl group which may have one or more substituents
[substituent(s)],

R¹, R² and R³ each represent [each] independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms which may have one or more substituents [substituent(s)],

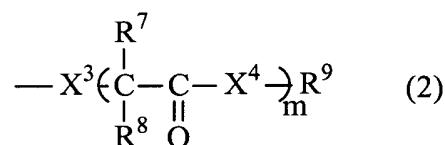
R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain, an amino group, an amidino group, a guanidiny group, a straight-chain or branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a straight chain or branched-chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a straight-chain or branched-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or an amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, all of which may have one or more substituents [substituent(s)],

X¹ is [actually absent (i.e., nothing)] a single bond or an alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms, an aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms which may have as a substituent a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having [0] 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a straight-chain or branched-chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

X² is [actually absent] a single bond or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom or -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-[hydroxypropyl] hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxy group has [whose alkoxy group is one having] 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n represents an integer of 0 or 1, and R⁵ represents a group represented by the following [general] Formula (2),



wherein

X³ represents -O- or -NR¹⁰-,

X⁴ represents -O- or -NR¹¹-,

R⁷ [represent] represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁸, R¹⁰, and R¹¹ each represent [each] independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁹ represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxy group has [whose alkoxy group is one having] 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and

m represents an integer of 0 or 1[.].

2. (Amended) The peptide [derivatives or salts] derivative or a salt thereof as [set forth] claimed in Claim 1, wherein

[said] Ar of [the general] Formula (1) represents a 1-naphthyl group or a 2-naphthyl group,

[said] R¹, R² and R³ of [the general] Formula (1) each represent a hydrogen atom,

[said] R⁴ of [the general] Formula (1) represents a basic amino acid side chain having an amino group or a [guanidinyl] guanidino group,

[said] X¹ of [the general] Formula (1) is a methylene group,

[said] X² of [the general] Formula (1) is [actually absent] a single bond,

[said] R⁶ of [the general] Formula (1) represents -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has [whose alkoxyl group is one having] 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

[said] n of [the general] Formula (1) represents an integer of 1, and

[said] R⁵ of [the general] Formula (1) represents a group represented by [the general] Formula (2),

wherein [said]

X³ of [the general] Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,

[said] X⁴ of [the general] Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,

[said] R⁷ of [the general] Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain, or a straight-chain or branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

[said] R⁸ of [the general] Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom,

[said] R⁹ of [the general] Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxy group has [whose alkoxy group is one having] 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

and [said] m of [the general] Formula (2) represents an integer of 0 or 1.

3. (Amended) The peptide [derivatives or salts] derivative or a salt thereof as [set forth] claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], wherein said peptide derivative represented by [the general] Formula (1) is D-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, D-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, L-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂ or L-2-naphthylalanyl-ArgLeuNH₂ .

4. (Amended) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory [compositions] composition which comprises, as [the] an active ingredient, at least one [selected from the group consisting of the] peptide derivative or salt [derivatives and salts] thereof as [set forth in any one of Claims 1-3] claimed in Claim 1.

5. (Amended) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as [the] an active ingredient, a melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibiting compound exhibiting a 50% inhibitory concentration of cAMP production (IC₅₀) of 100 nM or less.

6. (Amended) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as [set forth] claimed in Claim 5, wherein said composition is an inhibitor of [which is intended for the purpose of inhibiting] pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

7. (Amended) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as [set forth] claimed in Claim 5 [or 6], wherein said melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory compound has a molecular weight of 800 or less.

8. (Amended) A whitening agent which comprises, as [the] an active ingredient, at least one [selected from the group consisting of the peptide derivatives and the salts] peptide derivative or salt thereof as [set forth in any one of Claims 1-3] claimed in Claim 1 [or at least one selected from the group consisting of the] melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as set forth in any one of Claims 4-7].

9. (Amended) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as [the] an active ingredient, at least one peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1 [selected from the group consisting of the peptide derivatives and the salts thereof as set forth in any one of Claims 1-3, or at least one selected from the group consisting of the melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as set forth in any one of Claims 4-7].

10. (Amended) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as [the] an active ingredient, at least [one selected from the group consisting of the peptide derivatives and the salts thereof as set forth in any one of Claims 1-3] peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1 [or at least one selected from the group consisting of the melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as set forth in any one of Claims 4-7].

11. (Amended) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as [the] an active ingredient, at least one [selected from the group consisting of the peptide derivatives and the salts thereof as set forth in any one of Claims 1-3] peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1, [or at least one selected from the group consisting of the melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as set forth in any one of Claims 4-7].

Claims 12-19 (New).--